

**Bonneville Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal**

Section 1. General administrative information

**Public-Private Cooperative Resource
Management in the Lower Joseph Creek
Watershed**

[NOTE: This project is also referred to, in letters of support, as the
Lower Joseph Creek Cooperative Resource Management Project.]

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project

9119

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding

Wallowa Resources, Inc.

Business acronym (if appropriate)

WR

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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Subcontractors.

Organization	Mailing Address	City, State & Zip	Contact Name
Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District	201 W. North Street, Room 113	Enterprise, OR 97828	Cynthia Warnock

The Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has performed two cooperative resource management projects without external funding. However, both projects were at a much smaller scale than the Lower Joseph Creek watershed. The size of this project, and number of stakeholders, necessitates coordination of the overall effort.

Therefore, Wallowa Resources will be responsible for overseeing the project and will sub-contract with the SWCD to access their staff's expertise and past experience.

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses

2.2A, 2.2D.1, 2.2H, 3.1B, 3.1C, 3.1D, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 7.0C, 7.1C.3, 7.1D.1, 7.1D.2, 7.2, 7.5A.1, 7.5E.3, 7.5F.1, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9C, 10.2C, 10.5A.2, 11.3, 13.1E

NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.

Not applicable.

Other planning document references.

Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program - Operations - Action Plan, May 1994

Prescribes restoration within the Joseph Creek Watershed to address high summer temperatures and sedimentation (Page 49).

Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Recovery Plan, August 1993.

Public agencies need to work with adjoining private landowners and other agencies to provide continuity between ownerships in management and monitoring (Page 87).

Need for assurance of adequate funding for implementing salmon recovery recommendations (Page 87).

Prescribes high-priority restoration projects within the Joseph Creek Watershed to address stream temperatures, excess fine sediment, and riparian vegetation (Page 84).

Upper Joseph Creek Watershed Analysis - USDA Forest Service, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, 1995.

Prescribes restoration within the Upper Joseph Creek watershed, including fencing, planting, instream structures, or a combination thereof (Issue Five-12).

Land and Resource Management Plan for Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, 1990.

If the project type is "Watershed" (see Section 2), reference any demonstrable support from affected agencies, tribes, local watershed groups, and public and/or private landowners, and cite available documentation.

Local representatives of all affected agencies and the Nez Perce Tribe have participated in discussions about this project. The project was reviewed by the Wallowa County Court's Standing Committee of the Natural Resource Advisory Committee on January 21, 1998. Several private landowners have been involved with project design. The remaining private landowners are being contacted by the SWCD.

Letters of support from the USDA/U.S. Forest Service District and Area Rangers and the Wallowa County Court are attached.

Subbasin.

- Joseph Creek-Mile 0 (6,740 acres),
- Joseph Creek-Mile 5 (8,407 acres),
- Lower Cottonwood Creek (3,050 acres),
- Broady Creek (13,552 acres),
- Middle Cottonwood Creek (11,924 acres),
- Upper Cottonwood Creek (13,526 acres),

- Horse Creek (12,350 acres),
- Joseph Creek-Mile 14 (20,467 acres),
- Peavine Creek (8,098 acres),
- Joseph Creek-Mile 27 (6,680 acres),
- Lower Swamp Creek (17,075 acres),
- Davis Creek (10,705 acres),
- Upper Swamp Creek (20,854 acres),
- Joseph Creek-Mile 34 (6,494 acres), and
- Cougar Creek (6,884 acres).

Short description.

Develop a Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for the lower Joseph Creek watershed; conduct a watershed assessment through public-private partnerships, utilizing the CRMP process; and draft action plans coordinating watershed activities, monitoring, and restoration projects.

Section 2. Key words

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Other keywords.

None

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9702500	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Administration/Implementation/Research	Results of proposed project will lead directly into identifying priorities for this watershed.
9202601	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Habitat Projects	Results of proposed project will lead directly into identifying priorities for this watershed.
9702500	Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan Implementation	Results of proposed project will provide information necessary for creation of stewardship unit under County/Tribe Plan
9604400	Grande Ronde Basin Spring Chinook Captive Broodstock Program	Completion of proposed project will result in an overall management plan for this area to ensure that projects undertaken are priority
96AP96220	Lathrop Streambank Protection. Install rock barbs and woody material to reduce bank erosion. Trees/shrubs were also planted along Joseph Creek.	Completion of proposed project will result in an overall management plan for this area to ensure that projects undertaken are priority
96AP96195	Cottonwood Creek Riparian Enhancement. Installation of several rock jetties/barbs, raised road bed in three places & rocked road. Cottonwood Creek is a tributary to Joseph Creek.	Completion of proposed project will result in an overall management plan for this area to ensure that projects undertaken are priority
96BP17602	Grande Ronde Habitat Enhancement: Project I-Chesnimnus Creek Habitat Improvement; Project II-Streamside Vegetative Planting; Project III-Monitoring, Administration and Reporting; Project IV-Rehabilitate instream aquatic and riparian habitats	Completion of proposed project will result in an overall management plan for this area to ensure that projects undertaken are priority
84BP17578	Fisheries Habitat Improvement: Project I-Monitoring; Project II-Maintenance; Project III-Inspection. Objective I-Establish baseline information and evaluate effectiveness of BPA stream rehabilitation efforts in Joseph Watershed (Peavine, Devils Run, Chesnimnus, Elk and Davis Creeks); Objective II-Maintain habitat improvement structures; Objective III-Ascertain need for repairs or modifications	Completion of proposed project will result in an overall management plan for this area to ensure that projects undertaken are priority

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Objectives and tasks

Obj 1,2,3	FY 1999 Objective	Task a,b,c,	FY 1999 Task
1	Facilitate discussions with land owners and all stakeholders in the lower Joseph Creek watershed to develop a Cooperative Resource Management Plan (CRMP) which meets the guidelines of, and updates, the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan.	a	Hold meetings with land owners and stakeholders (including: Nez Perce Tribe, National Park Service, USDA/U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Wallowa County Court and Natural Resource Advisory Committee, and Grande Ronde Model Watershed) to: 1) discuss concerns about the ecological condition of the watershed; and 2) provide training in the CRMP process.
1		b	Work with all stakeholders to develop mission statement and discuss how to ensure collaborative, participatory implementation of the CRMP process.
2	Conduct a watershed assessment of the lower Joseph Creek drainage through public-private partnerships and collaborative, participatory research methods, within the CRMP framework, in order to gain a shared understanding of the watershed's ecological condition.	a	Coordinate watershed assessment data gathering.
2		b	Organize regular field site visits, in conjunction with data gathering, for landowners and stakeholders.
2		d	Facilitate regular meetings with all stakeholders to discuss, analyze and summarize data.
2		e	Write the watershed assessment final report.
3	Utilize CRMP data, which includes the watershed assessment, to develop action plans that will enhance watershed conditions.	a	Identify management objectives and conservation and restoration projects.
3		b	Develop monitoring and evaluation plan for the watershed, including review of cumulative effects of conservation and restoration projects.
3		c	Hold regular meetings to review and update action plans, maintain coordination of watershed activities and discuss other relevant issues.
3		d	Through a newsletter and regular meetings, continue stakeholder discussions of assessment results and findings from monitoring and evaluation.
3		e	Institutionalize coordination mechanisms to ensure efforts continue.

Objective schedules and costs

FY 1999 Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1 - Facilitate discussions among land owners and stakeholders in the lower Joseph Creek watershed to develop a Cooperative Resource Management Plan which meets the guidelines of, and updates, the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan.	10/98	1/99	15%
2 - Conduct a watershed assessment of the lower Joseph Creek drainage through public-private partnerships and collaborative, participatory research methods, within the CRMP framework, in order to gain a shared understanding of the watershed's ecological condition.	1/99	8/99	65%
3- Utilize CRMP data, which includes the watershed assessment, to develop action plans that will enhance ecological conditions.	7/99	10/99	20%
			TOTAL 100%

Schedule constraints. Identify any constraints that may cause schedule changes. Describe major milestones if necessary.

No schedule constraints have been identified.

Completion date. Enter the last year that the project is expected to require funding.

In October 1999 the project will be complete and the following objectives will have been achieved: (1) the ecological condition of the watershed will have been assessed, with participation of all stakeholders; (2) a coordinated resource management plan, with attached action plans, will be written.

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel	400 hrs. Exec. Dir. WR @ \$20.00 625 hrs. Program Manager @ \$20.00	\$20,500.00
Fringe Benefits	24% Payroll deduction (including: insurance, taxes, unemployment, workers compensation)	\$4,920.00
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property	Postage, phone, copies, supplies, printing reports	\$3,500.00
Operations & Maintenance		\$0.00
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)		\$0.00
PIT Tags	# of tags	\$0.00
Travel	Gas & mileage for 10 project site visits and hosted speakers @ .30 per mile	\$1,800.00
Indirect costs	Educational speakers	\$1,500.00
Subcontracts		\$0.00
Other		\$0.00
TOTAL		\$32,220.00

COST SHARE:

Item	Note	FY99
20 Agency Personnel and 4 Other Personnel	1,578 hours: 18 meetings @ 4.38 hrs (3 hrs per mtg. + 1.38 hrs preparation)	\$33,184.00
Fringe Benefits	33% Payroll deduction (insurance, taxes, unemployment, workers compensation)	\$10,950.00
TOTAL		\$44,134.00

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003
Total budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
O&M as % of total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Section 6. Abstract

This proposal addresses the need to improve watershed conditions in the lower Joseph Creek drainage through coordinating management and restoration across multiple land ownerships. The primary objective of this project is to facilitate discussions between multiple public, private and tribal landowners to develop a Cooperative Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for the watershed, which meets the guidelines of, and updates, the Wallowa County-Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan. Using the CRMP process, a complete watershed assessment will be conducted through public-private partnerships. Based on the findings of the assessment, action plans will be written which outline management, restoration and monitoring and mechanisms for coordinating watershed activities. This project addresses the Fish and Wildlife Program's objectives of supporting coordination between private, state, federal and tribal land managers and pursuing ecosystem approaches to resource management. The expected outcomes of the project are: (1) an overall coordinated resource management plan for the lower Joseph Creek watershed, with action plans which will guide coordinated management,

restoration and monitoring, and (2) a watershed assessment. Project monitoring efforts will focus on completing assessment activities and action plans according to schedule.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

Watershed conditions in Lower Joseph Creek drainage warrant restoration. While some portions of the watershed are intact, the overall watershed condition rating is poor (USDA 1994). Historic uses of the watershed have changed hydrologic functions (USDA 1994). In addition, there is a concern that current overstocking of forested lands and excessive fuels have increased the potential for large-scale stand-replacement wildfires (USDA 1992).

The Lower Joseph Creek watershed is an anadromous fishery containing habitat for chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Reports of chinook salmon presence have been sporadic (Chapman 1940, Stout 1957). However, suitable rearing habitat has led Nez Perce Tribe fisheries biologists to suspect the presence of chinook in the lower 4.2 miles. Nonetheless, reports of chinook salmon had not been substantiated until recently. In October 1997, a pair of chinook salmon were reported approximately 10.5 miles up Joseph Creek. A Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist verified the sighting, collected a chinook carcass and located the redd (Mendel 1998).

Restoration of the Lower Joseph Creek watershed has been attempted, but never in a coordinated manner. On the National Forest portion of the watershed, restoration activities have included, riparian planting and fencing, adjustments in livestock grazing systems, stand thinning, and prescribed burning. Treatments, however, have responded to symptoms of ecosystem imbalance and not the underlying problems. Using the existing ecosystem components as building blocks, the primary need is to restore conditions and reduce the risk of large disturbances such as epidemic insect infestations or widespread stand-replacement fires. Yet, efforts at restoration are complicated by the fact that ownership in the watershed is diverse and includes over 50 private land owners.

Yet, a coordinated restoration approach is timely. The Nez Perce Tribe has recently acquired ownership of 10,300 acres in the watershed and a management plan is underway. The Forest Service anticipates funding to become available for a watershed analysis on their own lands within the Lower Joseph Creek in 1999. This project would also advance and refine coordination and planning accomplished by the 1993 Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Habitat Plan, which identified high and low priority problems in the watershed and recommended basic restoration treatments. However, more refined data is needed to further develop these concepts into a coordinated resource management plan. The CRMP effort proposed in this project offers an unparalleled opportunity to move forward with gathering the data, and establishing the mechanisms, needed to coordinate management, monitoring and restoration.

The coordinated joint assessment of the watershed, which is proposed in this project, would be the first step toward pursuing an ecosystem-based approach to management, monitoring and restoration. If funded, the project would also build relationships among land owners and agencies and provide the opportunity to develop a shared understanding of the watershed's ecological condition. These proposed activities will achieve the goals and objectives of the 1994 Fish and Wildlife Program, including

stakeholder coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and ecosystem analysis at the watershed scale.

b. Proposal objectives.

1. The primary objective of this project is to facilitate the development of a watershed-level cooperative resource management plan (CRMP) for public, private and tribal lands in the entire lower Joseph Creek drainage, which meets the guidelines of, and updates, the Wallowa County-Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan.
2. The project's second objective is to complete a watershed assessment, implemented by public-private partnerships through the use of the CRMP process and collaborative data gathering techniques. This collaborative effort will result in the development of a shared understanding of the ecological condition of the watershed. Both the process and the findings will be documented in publications available to the public.
3. Finally, the third objective is to develop action plans for public-private coordination of management, restoration and monitoring across property boundaries within the lower Joseph Creek watershed. Additional publications will document how the coordinated watershed management and monitoring activities have been structured and what lessons have been learned in the process.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

This project addresses the Fish and Wildlife Program (FWP) objectives of supporting: ecosystem analysis; coordinating activities of private land owners, state, federal and Tribal entities; and monitoring. This project also has a strong connection with the FWP habitat policies and habitat planning objectives to protect and improve habitat conditions and ensure compatibility of activities with the biological needs of salmon, steelhead and other fish and wildlife species. Implementation of this project will identify those opportunities existing across jurisdictional boundaries and encourage coordination of human activities to protect and improve the productivity of salmon and steelhead stocks. It will also directly relate to the ICBEMP process of the Forest Service and BLM.

In addition, implementation of this project will result in identification of those resources that exist in a high quality state and recommendations of processes which will protect, maintain or enhance these resources. Resources that are presently at risk will also be identified and preventative and restorative recommendations will be made based on the assessment completed within this project.

Most significantly, the results of this project will include: (1) a coordinated, public-private, multiple land ownership watershed resource management, restoration and monitoring plan and action plans, and (2) an information/data management system and habitat data base for this watershed that will be available for use by all. The development of this database may be of particular use to the Nez Perce Tribe as they develop the wildlife mitigation and project plan for HETE' WITS WETES, a 10,300 acre parcel within this project's boundaries obtained with BPA support as part of wildlife mitigation agreements.

d. Project history (for continuing projects).

Not applicable.

e. Methods.

The framework of the project is the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) process. The Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) have jointly performed two CRMP processes in the County to date. However, both efforts have been at much smaller scales. Due to the large scale of this project, Wallowa Resources will coordinate all aspects of the project and assist with facilitation, while the SWCD will take the lead on facilitation.

Through the previous CRMP processes, watershed assessments and other joint efforts such as the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Salmon Recovery Plan, local landowners, the Tribe and agency representatives have built effective working relationships for natural resource planning.

The watershed assessment component of this project will follow the process laid out in the Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale: A Federal Guide for Watershed Analysis, (Revised August 1995, Version 2.2, Portland, Oregon). GIS information will be obtained from a shared Wallowa County and USDA/U.S. Forest Service database as well as data from the Oregon Department's of Forestry and of Fish and Wildlife.

Restoration activities, and efforts to reduce stream temperatures and sediment loads throughout the watershed system, could include:

- planting coniferous and deciduous species along riparian zones;
- placing large woody debris in streams, to slow runoff and provide fisheries habitat;
- fencing watering corridors and supplying alternative water sources for livestock;
- establishing wetlands or filter strips for feedlot runoff;
- relocating roads outside of riparian areas;
- designing and maintaining roads, to avoid quick runoff and improve infiltration;
- limiting dust with palliatives;
- treating fuels; and
- coordinating recreational activities.

No factors have been identified which will impede the success of this project.

f. Facilities and equipment.

Existing office facilities of applicants will be utilized. No purchase of equipment is being requested.

g. References.

Chapman, W.M. 1940. Report of a Field Trip to the Snake River Drainage in Idaho and Eastern Oregon in 1940.

Mendel, Glen. 1998. Personal Communication. Fisheries Biologist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Stout, W.H. 1957. Stream Surveys and Fish Relocation Feasibility Studies. Oregon State Game Commission.

USDA/U.S. Forest Service, July 1992. Restoring Ecosystems in the Blue Mountains -- A Report to the Regional Forester and the Forest Supervisors of the Blue Mountains Forests. Portland, Oregon: USDA/USFS Pacific Northwest Region.

USDA/U.S. Forest Service. 1994. Wallowa-Whitman National Forest: Joseph Creek Section 7 Watershed Assessment of Ongoing Activities. Enterprise, Oregon: USDA/USFS-Wallowa Whitman National Forest.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

This project area includes HETE' WITS WETES, the Nez Perce Tribe's 10,300 acre BPA funded wildlife mitigation project. The data exchange and collaboration with surrounding landowners will aid the Tribe in developing a management plan for this land and any other lands that they may acquire in the future.

This project will utilize the Northwest Power Planning Council project: Return to the River, Restoration of Salmonid Fishes in the Columbia River Ecosystem, Development of an alternative Conceptual Foundation and Review and Synthesis of Science underlying the Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, written by the Independent Scientific Group in September 1996.

Many water quality parameters, throughout the basin, have been monitored by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nez Perce Tribe, Wallowa County, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and Oregon State University. This data will also be available for, and used in, project implementation. Additional monitoring data on steelhead and salmon populations in the Joseph Creek watershed is also available and will assist in the development of specific basin plans for water quality monitoring and population monitoring plans with protocols to assure repeatable and interchangeable data.

This project will also use information in the Application of the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment Method to the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, funded by BPA in 1996-1997 and the Proposed Recovery Plan for the Snake River Salmon, written by the U.S. Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service (March 1995).

BPA has supported Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest for many years through funding numerous habitat improvement projects, many which are located in the Upper Joseph Watershed such as riparian exclusion fencing on a portion of Davis Creek. This project will complement those past efforts.

The Joseph Creek CRMP will also complement the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Tribe Recovery Plan completed in 1993 and will result in the gathering of sufficient information to create a stewardship unit as defined in that plan.

Section 9. Key personnel

Principal Investigator and Project Coordinator: Diane Shetler

Diane is a native of Wallowa County who currently serves as Executive Director of Wallowa Resources, Inc., a private non-profit operating in Wallowa County. Wallowa Resources is made up primarily of people from Wallowa County who are concerned about forest health, family wage jobs in natural resources and natural resource education. Prior to this position, Diane has worked as the Director of Land Use Planning and Building Department/ Wallowa County Court and the Committee Administrator for the State and Federal Affairs Committee/ Oregon State House of Representatives.

Diane will be responsible for overall project coordination and will assist with facilitation.

Principal Facilitator: Cynthia Warnock

Cynthia has been District Manager of the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District for the past four and a half years. During this time, she has administered approximately fifteen Watershed Health Program projects, ten Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board projects, and twelve Bonneville Power Administration Projects. The SWCS and NRCS have helped develop two Cooperative Resource Management Plans (CRMP) within Wallowa County to date, the Big Sheep Creek CRMP and the Little Sheep Creek CRMP. CRMP's are recognized statewide as a high priority action for SWCD's to be involved in. It is included in their annual work plans. Cynthia is well known and respected in the community by private landowners and agency representatives. She works closely with the local representative of the Nez Perce Tribe and is in tune with resource conditions in Wallowa County through personal experience as well as performing monitoring of projects for the SWCD. (See attached resume.)

Cynthia will be the lead facilitator of the CRMP process and meeting facilitation will be conducted by the NRCS.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

Implementation of this project will result in three publications which will be available to the public:

- Lower Joseph Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan;
- Public-Private, Community-Based Watershed Assessment in the Lower Joseph Creek Drainage: Approach, Process and Lessons Learned; and
- Public-Private, Community-Based Watershed Assessment in the Lower Joseph Creek Drainage: Monitoring and Evaluation Findings.

In addition, project findings will be summarized in a regular newsletter and during meetings. The newsletters and meetings will provide opportunities for all stakeholders to discuss and stay current with information gathered. In addition, periodic workshops will be held among stakeholders to discuss progress and analyze technical findings.

Information will also be available through shared GIS compatible technology housed at the Forest Service/ Wallowa Whitman National Forest.